

EXSUM - MILITARY TRANSITION COUNCIL

March 17, 2015 – 10:00 – 12:00

Washington Army National Guard Readiness Center, Yakima, WA

Focus - Statewide employment changes and opportunities, Track Workgroup CY15 Goals, and statewide expansion. In addition to WSMTC topics, representatives from the Yakima County Veteran Task Force and the Spokane Area Veteran Task Force discussed how they serve Veterans after their transition out of the military and their re-integration back into their communities.

Agenda, presentation slides, and EXSUM can be found on the WDVA Website under the Military Transition Council-Documents: <http://www.dva.wa.gov/about-wdva/washington-state-military-transition-council-wsmtc>

Two ASKS were presented by the Career Technical Track Workgroup related to automated, self-service transition tools. Both Asks are under review by a sub-workgroup and stakeholders.

Attendance – 83 people signed the register in Yakima, and 15 participated via GoToMeeting Webinar and a number of people called into the conference call. This is the first time the WSMTC used a collaborative tool to share the meeting with individuals that could not attend in person.

Briefing Summaries:

Opening Comments – Alfie Alvarado- Ramos, Director, Washington Department of Veteran Affairs. The WSMTC is in Yakima because eastern Washington matters. The state needs to understand how you partner with the community and how you work to solve service member transition and Veteran's problems and how you implement laws and policy in rural areas.

Washington National Guard - COL Kevin McMahan, J1, WA National Guard, discussed the composition of the Washington National Guard and how their transitioning Soldiers and Airmen are supported by the National Guard's Joint Services Support (JSS) and Employment Transition Services. Their Service member's biggest challenge is the geographic distance many of them have getting to the military installations. Through the National Guard Employment Network (EGEN) and the Employers Support to the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), over 988 employers were engaged about the value of hiring a Veteran, National Guard Soldier, or Reservist.

Results Washington Update – John Cooper, Senior Performance Advisor for Results Washington, Governor's Office, discussed the Results Washington Goal 2: Prosperous Economy. Results Washington is a data driven continuous improvement performance management system. For the first time in Results Washington briefings, the meeting was focused on a singular topic. During this particular update, the Governor received updates on activities associated with Veteran Employment.

Currently Washington State is not meeting the Results Washington Goal to increase Veteran employment rate.

The Governor had 4 main follow-up actions for the staff:

1. Identify ways to scale the successful programs
2. Identify the cultural components that would assist veterans to be successful when they start state service
3. Develop a strategy to recognize veterans within the first year of state service
4. Develop consistent hiring practices by state HR

A 91 minute video of the entire Results Washington brief is available on TVW at:
http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com_tvwplayer&eventID=2015020033

The Results Washington Website is available at: <http://www.results.wa.gov/>

2014 Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) - Eleni Papadakis, Director, Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board and Cheryl Fambles, President Washington Workforce Association and CEO of Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council, co-briefed the Council on the current planning status of Washington State towards implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The majority of the WIOA provisions must be implemented by 1 July, 2015 and additional requirements implemented by 1 July, 2016.

WIOA expands the umbrella of programs and services that might be included in a "next generation" workforce development system. More importantly, the law encourages integration and coordination of services across funding silos, to expand access for services and improve employment and earning outcomes for jobseekers, and better skills matching for employers.

With the new WIOA, there are increased opportunities for transitioning service members, but your input is needed to inform plan development. Planning is a coordinated statewide effort, and is occurring at the state and local levels. WIOA programming, once implemented will occur at the local level, therefore it is equally as important that concerns specific to services in your community are highlighted as well as overarching state-level policy concerns.

If you want to read more on the WIOA or get involved in the planning effort, please visit the WTB/WIOA website at: <http://wtb.wa.gov/WIOA.asp>. To find information on WIOA planning in your community, go to: www.washingtonworkforce.org

Employment Security Department Update – Kelly Lindseth, Deputy Director, Workforce & Career Development Division, discussed the changes to the organization of Local Veteran Employment Representatives (LVER) and the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) representatives. This re-organization will create and implement new processes designed to increase statewide efforts to engage and better educate employers on the value of hiring Veterans and standardize engagement processes for the best effect to get Veterans hired.

Additionally, ESD signed a contract with Monster.com in January as a new case management and career platform to use statewide with a goal to be operational by November 2015. This will allow greater visibility for Veteran job seekers as well as employers that want to hire Veterans. ESD plans to update the WSMTC during the July meeting on their planning and implementation progress. For anyone interested in following the ESD Monster.com project, please visit: <http://go2worksourcenews.com/>

Camo2Commerce – Cheryl Fambles, CEO, of Pacific Mountain Workforce Development and Shellie Willis, Military Workforce Development Director, Workforce Central, updated the group on the success and future opportunities of Camo2Commerce. Currently, the program is on track to meet the numbers and criteria. The original DoL Grant approved \$5.5 million for only JBLM transitioning service members, however, recent efforts by the program director, has convinced DoL that any qualified transitioning service member can use Camo2Commerce as long as they can get to JBLM.

Camo2Commerce has just received approval to hire an apprenticeship navigator and position the person full time on JBLM.

Camo2Commerce is looking to expand to all military bases in 2016, contingent upon additional DoL money. Presenters reiterated the role the council has played in promoting the model and enabling its success. In the Fall of 2015, C2C will look for specific support from the WSMTC and all partners to demonstrate the capabilities of the model.

They also showed a 5-minute video summary of Camo2Commerce that is available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0hEPsaqcvk>

Washington State/ JBLM Transition Summit Planning – Robin Baker, JBLM Education Services Officer, informed the council that the Summit will be 22-24 September on JBLM.

Due to the incredible success of the 2014 JBLM Summit, and the National Chamber of Commerce dubbing the event as the “National Model”, JBLM is expecting the event to be bigger this year. All military personnel and family members from across the state and other states are invited to the event.

Day 1 – Federal and State level briefers and employer updates.

Day 2 – Panel discussions revolving around the 7 industry sectors of Washington State: Maritime, Aerospace, Life Science & Global Health, Clean Technology, Information Communication Technology, Military and agriculture. In the afternoon, there are initial planning for a “hands-on” apprenticeship fair.

Day 3 – Career/Education Fair for employers, training, and education opportunities.

Individuals and companies interested in being involved in planning the event, need to connect with Dan Verbeke, JBLM Transition Services Supervisor, at JBLM.

The WSMTC was also reminded that JBLM has a Career Fair 29-30 April. Day1 are workshops designed for service members and day 2 is the actual career fair.

Employment Track Workgroup Update – Linda Nguyen, CEO, Workforce Central and Co-Chair of the Employment Track Workgroup, updated the council on Goal 1A Employer Actions and 1B Job Seeker Actions, progress. For Goal 1A, in the last 2 months, employment Track Workgroup members and DVA staff visited Fairchild Air Force Base and Northwest Navy Region to discuss the possibilities of expanding the Northwest Edge Plus program from JBLM to other military installations. Both Fairchild AFB and NW Navy Region Transition leaders are interested in the program. Currently the Employer subcommittee members, with assistance from the Education Track Workgroup, are developing curriculum to share. The Employment Workgroup is almost complete with the Private Sector Survey on best practices for hiring veterans. The survey focuses on four areas: 1) Data collection on Veterans in the workforce, 2) Veteran recruitment strategies, 3) Veteran on-boarding, and 4) company best practices. The private sector survey is targeted for release by the end of March. Once the results are consolidated, the goal is to develop employer training workshops for private companies and public agencies for presentation at the next Washington State Service Member for Life Summit, 22-23 September 2015.

For Goal 1B, Job Seeker Actions, the Employment Track is working on understanding the number of known hiring events in the state in order to recommend to the WSMTC Executive Committee for decision on which events the WSMTC should endorse. A detailed breakdown of definitions and initial analysis is in the slide deck. Additionally, the Employment Track Workgroup plans to host a teleconference in June 2015 with all the Veteran Representatives in the 12 WDCs on how to connect Veterans to employment opportunities.

Higher Education Track Workgroup – Newly appointed Co-Chair, Dave Millet, Director, Veterans Resource Center with Eastern WA University, updated the council on the workgroups structural changes. Each education track workgroup member is required to choose a sub-group to actively participate in.

1) 3 Pillars sub-group Goals/Actions:

- Integrating Higher education with the following 3 pillars at all installations, across the state:
 - o Induction –
 - o Service –
 - o Transition -

2) Resources & Website sub-group Goals/Actions:

- Collection and sharing of best practices across state – One good technique is to refer to the Post 9/11 GI Bill as a scholarship when interacting with educators.
- Input and resources needed for resources page on WDVA site
- Identify key participants for higher education working group

3) Education to Careers sub-group Goals/Actions:

- Help Employment group expand NW Edge program across the state
- Work to integrate ESD (new Monster system) with each WA based schools, career & veteran centers
- Work with SB/Entrepreneur track to produce cross sharing opportunities with each WA based schools, career & veteran centers
- Work to create winning partnerships between education institutions in WA and key members of other WSMTC Track Workgroups.

Career and Technical Track Workgroup Update – Mabel Edmonds, Workgroup co-chair and Dean for Workforce and Economic Development, Clover Park Technical College, talked about their workgroup's 4 goals for CY 2015 on how to increase service member access to high demand apprenticeship programs to meet WA state skills gaps. There are challenges communicating to transitioning service members on the value of apprenticeships.

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Small Business Entrepreneurship Workgroup Update – Cheryl Fambles, CEO Workforce Pacific Mountain and Track Workgroup co-chair, briefed the council on how the workgroup is making the Small Business Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Veteran Ready. There are already a number of agencies and individuals already in the mix highlighting, coordinating, and integrating resources to assist transitioning service members. In CY15, they are working to expand existing programs to build more success and options for transitioning service members and veterans who might choose entrepreneurship and small business ownership.

Yakima Area Veteran Update – David Brown, Yakima County Veteran Coordinator, and John Rimel, WAARNG FRS, talked about the challenges of rural communities and assisting veterans. In the past 5 years Veteran Services and resources have increased significantly, particularly in the homeless resources. A big concern continues to be outreach to all Veterans to communicate the benefits and services available. The community participation has increased greatly also. The Central Washington Veterans Task Force has created opportunity for community support, advocacy, and collaboration-information flows through monthly meetings. This has greatly enhanced the support our Veterans receive. Coalitions and collaboration truly works in this part of Washington State. Their updated highlighted that transition does not end at the installation's gate, but may last 2, 3 or 4 years after separation and the communities the Veterans enter are there to assist. John also recommended a "hand-off" between military installations and the communities the veteran plans to return.

Spokane Area Veteran Task Force Update – Rudy Lopez, 2015 Chairperson of the Eastern Washington Veteran Task Force, and Washington State Veteran Cemetery Superintendent, Seth Maier, former 2014 EWVTF Chair, and ESD DVOP, and Jennifer Allison-Oord, 2013 EWVTF Chair and VA Hospital Transitional Patient Advocate, discussed the similar challenges Spokane area and Yakima Veteran task forces face. The group has over 200 members and meets monthly to cross-talk, collaborate, and build transparency to assist veterans and newly transitioned service members for the last 38 years. Partnering organizations span education, employment, financial, health & housing sectors in addition to veteran's benefits and are well supported by local and federal legislative officials. A goal for the 2015 year is to establish an organizational charter.

Rally Point/6 Update - Anne Sprute, Founder and CEO of RP/6, introduced the new RP/6 Chief of Staff, Alisa Stevens. Alisa is a former US Army Captain who served in the financial sector after transitioning from Ft. Lewis in 2005, she then made a move to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation where she served for 6 years, then, seeking a closer opportunity to work in the military space she moved to support the startup of the Schultz Family Foundation Onward Veterans Program. RP/6 also shared the following updates; the RP/6 Education Committee led by Denise Yochum, President of Pierce College joined together to hire an education representative working at RP/6. RP/6 is now one of 4 Microsoft accredited testing sites in WA State, led by the partnership with the Pierce County Library, RP/6 has opened a satellite office on JBLM, and in the employment pillar of RP/6 there have been 954 enrolled with a 49% success rate of reaching employment goals (467), this success is accredited to the collaboration between the RP/6 team and the Employment Pillar partners.

Anne also shared that March 17th was the formal announcement of the Schultz Family Foundation "Onward to Opportunity" collaboration between the Schultz Family Foundation, US DoD, Syracuse University and private sector partners to connect service members to careers. There are 6 military installations selected in the pilot year. JBLM is one of the pilot installations, RP/6 is working with IVMF in support of the JBLM Onward to Opportunity initiative.

RP/6 leadership recently attended the Bush Institute Veteran and Military Family Summit where the Bush team announced three tool kits to support communities making an impact in the military space. The Bush Institute web-site hosts three tool kits: One for Veterans, one for non-profits serving Veterans, and one for funders investing in veteran initiatives. You can watch the full summit panel session: http://youtu.be/hLyyzP_6dnw. Start at minute mark 13:30 for President Bush's introduction of GEN Chiarelli's opening comments re RallyPoint/6.

Hire America's Heroes Update – Jimmy Collins, President, Hire America's Heroes, discussed that Hire America's Heroes mission is to build Veteran demand by training employers and improving corporate knowledge about the value a Veteran brings to the workforce. To find out more about the member companies and upcoming events, visit the below website: <http://hireamericasheroes.org/>

Next WSMTC meetings – Looking for volunteers to host the quarterly council meeting.

July 21, 2015 – Tacoma/Lakewood/Olympia (T)

November 17, 2015 – Navy Region Northwest – Bremerton (T)

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